

David A Kirby 03/10/2009 09:38:28 AM From DB/Inbox: David A Kirby

Cable  
Text:  
CONFIDENTIAL  
TELEGRAM

March 10, 2009

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE  
Action: DS  
From: AMEMBASSY ASMARA (ASMARA 85 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: ASEC, PGOV, PREL, ER  
Captions: None  
Subject: ERITREAN PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS KILLED IN AN ON-DUTY  
AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT  
Ref: 08 ASMARA 15

Additional Addressees:  
None

cc:  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
CIA WASHDC  
HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE  
SECDEF WASHDC  
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JICCENT MACDILL AFB FL  
CJTF-HOA J2X CAMP LEMONIER DJ  
COMUSNAVCENT  
DIA WASHDC

Distribution:

TED1327  
ACTION DS-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	PERC-00	EAP-00
	EUR-00	VCJ-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	MOFM-00
	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	OIG-00	FMPC-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	ASDS-00	CBP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	CARC-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/000W		

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R 101323Z MAR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ASMARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0212  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
CIA WASHDC  
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HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 000085

DEPARTMENT FOR DS/IP/AF, DS/TIA/ITA, DS/IP/SPC/SO, AF/E,  
LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/2029

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ER](#)

SUBJECT: ERITREAN PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS KILLED IN AN ON-DUTY  
AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen for Reason 1.4 (d)

¶1. (SBU) Eritrean media have reported five members of the presidential protective detail were killed last week in the Gash Barka region of western Eritrea. A local source told RSO the five security personnel were in a follow car and became separated from Isaias's car during a vehicle movement. While trying to catch up, they had a head-on collision with a ministry of defense truck. Flags were at half-mast this weekend in Asmara as the security personnel were buried.

¶2. (C) Comment: RSO observed the presidential guard during a CODEL in January 2008. The presidential guard did not seem competent and allowed RSO to get within two feet of Isaias without stopping him during a walking movement. During a dinner event, Isaias abruptly left the venue in his personal car without notifying his security detail. His security detail did not know he had left the site until one minute after his departure and had to scramble to catch up to his vehicle (Reftel).  
MCMULLEN